MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

Security Situation — The operation to disengage the hostile forces in Beirut was completed when cease-fire observers were deployed in five positions that had caused a "problem" that the Security Arrangements Committee has now solved, Beirut radio announced on 24 April. Nevertheless, the situation subsequently deteriorated, the radio said, and West Beirut came under heavy sniper fire after gunfire was directed at the Lebanese Forces' representative on the Security Arrangements Committee, wounding two of his aides. The Lebanese Forces denounced the attempt in an official statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, asserting that the incident tests the credibility of claims by the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party that they are in control of the situation in West Beirut. It added that the Lebanese Forces are determined to continue to support the cease-fire and disengagement plan. Two civilians were killed by sniper fire during the clashes in central Beirut, according to an Amal source cited by Beirut radio.

Beirut radio reported that the IDF closed the only remaining road link between the south and the rest of Lebanon, firing at the tires of vehicles waiting to enter the south.

Political Situation — "Informed sources" expect President Amin al-Jumayyil to receive former Prime Minister Rashid Karami on 25 April to discuss the possible formation of a new government, Beirut radio reported. Al-Jumayyil has held consultations with various Christian and Muslim leaders in recent days, the radio noted, and informed Karami by telephone of the "unanimous" view that he should be the new prime minister. Karami agreed to form a government after receiving "an Arab guarantee for the Syrian solution to end the crisis" as well as assurances that all the main political leaders will participate in the government, according to opposition sources cited by the radio.

Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil, in a statement reported by Beirut radio, said the Lebanese Forces will not obstruct the formation of a national unity government, stressing that the Phalange insists on the participation of the Lebanese Forces in the new government. He dismissed as "wrong" the Lebanese Forces spokesman's recent statement that the Forces would not join the new government, asserting that the Lebanese Front rather than the spokesman speaks for the Forces on this issue.

Libya

Libya will exercise "reciprocity" both with regard to the return of diplomatic personnel and respect for embassy grounds, Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki told AFP. He stated that the diplomats will return home "at the same time," and warned that Libyan soldiers would enter the British Embassy in Tripoli if British authorities entered the Libyan Bureau in London.

According to the AFP report, At-Turayki indicated that Libyan authorities were "surprised" by the decision to break relations which, he said, should have been preserved. He also disclosed that Libya has "no problem" with accepting Italy as Britain's representative in the country.

In another development, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official indicated that Turkey would be pleased to "eliminate" the crisis between Britain and Libya and said that there were indications that both countries might accept Turkey's help in the matter, ANATOLIA news agency reported.

Afghanistan

The Armed Forces mounted an operation against the "criminal band" of Ahmad Shah Masud and occupied the "last nests" of that "professional criminal" in the Panjsher valley, Kabul radio reported. The government initially decided against a military operation out of fear for the safety of the inhabitants, the radio disclosed, but Masud's "barbaric crimes," ordered by his American, British, and Pakistani "masters," compelled it to act. Security now prevails throughout the valley and Masud's band "no longer exists," the report charged.

Meanwhile, an AFP report citing "Western diplomatic sources" claimed that Soviet troops carried out the offensive against Masud's rebels in the valley. The attack began with "massive" air and artillery strikes; an "eyewitness account" claimed that 43 Soviet planes bombarded the valley.

The clandestine Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan radio reported that mujahidin in the Panjsher valley inflicted "heavy losses" on the Soviet-Afghan forces attempting to infiltrate mujahidin lines in order to kill a "local commander." According to Karachi radio, the mujahidin are said to be in control of the valley and described claims that Soviet-Afghan forces have occupied the area as "mere propaganda."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes bombed the Iranian border town of Piranshah on 25 April, killing 7 people and injuring 30 others, Tehran radio announced.

Iraq

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan held talks in Moscow with Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, INA reported. The two sides reviewed relations and ways to develop and expand cooperation in all fields, INA said, and also discussed Arab and international issues including the Iran-Iraq war.

Saudi-Jordanian Talks

King Fahd and King Husayn chaired talks in Riyadh which were attended by the Saudi defense minister and the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, SPA Reported.

Western Sahara

A SADR Information Ministry communique reported by APS claimed that Polisario forces killed 70 Moroccan soldiers in a recent attack on positions south of Zaak.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Reportage on Fighting in Panjsher Valley

'Long-Awaited' Offensive Begins

BK241530 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Islamabad, April 24 (AFP) — Soviet troops have begun a long-awaited offensive against the Panjsher Valley, the major base of Afghan rebels fighting the Kabul regime, Western diplomatic sources here said.

The offensive, the seventh against the strategic valley north of Kabul since Soviet forces invaded in December 1979, began last Saturday with massive air and artillery strikes, diplomats said. According to an eyewitness account by an Afghan traveller who reached the Pakistani border town of Peshawar today, 43 Soviet planes bombarded the valley while gunners directed heavy artillery fire from the valley's southern edge.

Rebels triggered the Soviet attack last week when they blew up bridges along the Salang highway leading north from Kabul to the Soviet border. Civilians evacuated the valley last month on the orders of rebel leader Major Ahmad Shah Masud, who had been warned by his agents in Kabul that the Soviets were preparing a new offensive.

The fighting ends a ceasefire agreed over a year ago by Masud and the Soviet Army command in Afghanistan.

Diplomats here said a guerrilla attack nine days ago against the Mattock bridge along the Salang highway had thwarted Soviet attempts to supply several thousand troops massed south of the Panjsher valley.

Previous Soviet drives against the valley had met with little resistance.

But Masud and his men this year have chosen to employ preventive tactics, with the destruction of at least four bridges along the Salang highway and attacks on Soviet convoys caught between the bridges. Resistance sources in Peshawar said rebel operations had already caused heavy Soviet losses. Disruption of the Salang highway has also sparked fuel shortages in Kabul, and diplomats here said there were long lines in gas stations in the capital.

Soviet and Afghan Government troops have been attempting to surround the Panjsher Valley since February by reinforcing military posts in adjacent zones. With the exception of one highway leading east, all roads into the valley have been blocked by Soviet and Afghan Army troops.

According to Western diplomats in Kabul, Moscow has sent several thousand fresh troops to participate in the spring offensive. They said 35 MI-8 and MI-24 helicopters had been delivered to the Bagram air base north of Kabul this month. The U.S. Department of Defense said 80 TU-16 fighter-bombers had recently been moved to Soviet airports along the Afghan border.

Meanwhile, rebel forces led by Major Masud were said to number around 5,000. Diplomats said rebels had been able to train and build up supplies during the long ceasefire and could now withstand a lengthy Soviet siege.

The Panjsher Valley is a 150 km (95 mile) fertile stretch ending to the north in the Hindu Kush Mountains. It links the Kabul plain to the Badakhshan highlands, celebrated for vast deposits of lapus lazuli. Panjsher and the adjacent valleys of Andarab, Abdara, Isarak and Mjanjaur [are] inhabited by some 100,000 peasants who live for the most part in isolated farms or tiny hamlets.

Since Moscow's 1979 invasion, Panjsher inhabitants have survived six Soviet attacks all accompanied by heavy bombing. The last attak in the fall of 1982 left the valley devastated.

Major Masud said recently: "If the Panjsher falls to the Red Army, it will mean the defeat not just of my party but of the holy war in Afghanistan."

Rebel Band 'No Longer Exists'

LD241818 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] According to a report, a large number of the noble inhabitants of Panjsher have held a tribal assembly with a representative of the security forces. The representative of the security forces first explained the present situation in the Panjsher district:

You, our compatriots, are aware that a band led by Ahmad Shah, son of Dost Mohammad, who in the years prior to the revolution had gone abroad to his Pakistani and British masters to receive special training, for a long time had been disrupting the security of the beautiful Panjsher valley, making life unbearable for the noble people of that region. He set fire to schools, mosques, and government buildings; and, by intimidation, blackmail, and murder, he gathered a number of others around himself and on the order of his American, British, and Pakistani masters embarked on a series of crimes and barbaric actions.

The DRA Government, in consideration of the fact that by mounting a military operation the inhabitants could be harmed, watched the events with great patience. Peace assemblies were held to improve the region's situation, various forms of assistance were sent to the noble inhabitants, and the reconstruction of the destroyed government buildings and educational centers of the criminal band of Ahmad Shah was begun.

In consideration of the fact that the DRA Government prefers a peaceful solution of the problems through the organization of peace assemblies, for a while peace prevailed in this region; efforts were made to restore healthy security and normal and constructive circumstances, but the mercenary Ahmad Shah, on the instruction of his masters, again prevented these actions and embarked on the destruction of buildings and schools and prevented education and training and the normal daily life of the people.

He wanted to exploit the peaceful conditions in the interest of his masters, that is to say, Reagan, Thatcher,and Ziaul-Haq. He committed barbaric crimes with inhuman [word indistinct] methods, and again embarked on intimidation, blackmail, and murder. Using intimidation, he forced elders, old women, and

children into subjugation or, in the event of disobedience, he forced them to leave their homes and dwellings.

Hundreds and thousands of the noble inhabitants of this region who did not accept the rule of Ahmad Shah and his mercenary band fled to other cities. He took youths as hostages and compelled families to move. He attacked motor vehicles loaded with foodstuffs, taking away goods and machinery. Such circumstances were intolerable to the DRA Government.

The DRA Government, in accordance with its humanitarian policy, has made the peaceful solution of problems its foremost duty. However, if the agitators and enemies of the homeland do not want to surrender to the government and do not yield, the government is prepared to crush them wherever they are, no matter to which imperialist and reactionary forces they are attached. Therefore, in view of this situation, the brave Armed Forces took action and mounted an operation. Now security prevails throughout the beautiful valley of Panjsher and the last nests of the professional criminal of Ahmad Shah have been occupied.

Noble inhabitants of Panjsher, we give you the good news that the criminal band of Ahmad Shah no longer exists. We invite you and all noble inhabitants of Panjsher, wherever you are, to return to your homes and dwellings and resume your calm life. You members of today's assembly, pass this good news to all your friends and relatives and invite the people to the beautiful valley of Panjsher.

The DRA Government will take action for the reconstruction of this region and improvement of the situation and will provide all necessary and immediate assistance within the framework of what is possible.

Revolutionary legality, as before, will be seriously observed and local tribal assemblies will be formed for the consolidation of the government's authority with the participation of the inhabitants of this beautiful valley; and the people's committee for the consolidation of the government's authority, consisting of elders, ulema, and patriots, will be formed to look after affairs. Problems will be solved jointly. Let those who on the instructions of Reagan, Thatcher, and Ziaul-Haq disrupt peace and order reap the results of their deeds.

In conclusion, the security official added that the amnesty decree of the Revolutionary Council will apply to those misguided persons who are living in various hideouts and regions of the country as thieves and [word indistinct]. If they surrender and lay down their weapons, they can resume their peaceful life.

Mujahidin Still Hold Valley

BK251023 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have confirmed that they are still in control of the strategic Panjsher valley, describing as mere propaganda Kabul Radio's claim that the Soviet-Karmal forces have occupied the region.

Rebels Inflict Heavy Losses

GF241833 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Summary from poor reception) Our brave mujahidin in the Panjsher valley inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet-Karmal soldiers. The reports indicate that the mujahidin have been inflicting heavy losses on the Soviet-Karmal troops. The reports indicate that the latest Soviet-government move consisted of infiltrating the mujahidin lines. Their personnel, who intended to kill a local commander in Panjsher valley, were exposed and captured by our mujahidin brothers. A majority of these spies have now been captured and are on trial.

Our mujahidin fighters in a clash in Samangan Province inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet-Karmal troops and killed 130 enemy soldiers. They also killed one Soviet adviser and destroyed two enemy tanks along with several other vehicles. The mujahidin in (?Samangan) Province attacked a Karmal prison and released several innocent prisoners. In this attack, six Karmal personnel were killed.

In the (Golran) District of Herat Province, guerillas set off mines and destroyed two enemy tanks. They also killed or wounded 12 occupants of the tanks.

Masud Deals Heavy Blow

GF250758 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Afghan mujahidin forces, led by Ahmad Shah Masud, were able to deal a heavy blow to the Soviet forces invading Afghanistan on the main road joining Kabul and the Soviet Union. The group also was able to destroy a bridge on the (Jorbang) River on 15 April.

It was announced in Kabul last night that the invading Soviet forces captured the strategic Panjsher valley, northeast of Kabul, in an attack which was launched using 43 Soviet missile-launchers, 500 tanks and armored cars, and thousands of Soviet troops.

The Afghan mujahidin agency said that the activities of the Afghan mujahidin inside the capital have increased on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The agency pointed out that at the beginning of this month 35 helicopters arrived at the [name indistinct] air base to support the invading forces.

'Bandits Crushed' in Herat, Kabul Provinces

LD240908 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul April 23, BAKHTAR — Thirty counter-revolutionaries were killed and two of them were captured alive with their arms by the security forces of the DRA in Herat Province.

Two rocket launchers, thirty one light and heavy arms, two thousand bullets, and leaflets of propaganda were seized from them.

Also in another operation of the security forces which took place in Deh-Sabz district of Kabul Province twenty five bandits and their ringleader, Fayz Mohammad, were crushed. They were related to the terrorist band of Jamiat-e Eslami.

One field gun, one mortar, three rocket launchers and fifteen different arms were seized from them.

More Interior Ministry Officers Promoted
LD250851 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Promotion cards to Samunwals [police rank] and colonels in the Ministry of the Interior, who have been promoted to the rank of general in anticipation of the sixth anniversary of the April Revolution, were distributed this morning by Brigadier General Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, minister of interior.

At a ceremony held in the Sarandoy Academy, the head of personnel in the Ministry of the Interior read the PDPA Revolutionary Council Presidium decree concerning the promotion of the generals. The officers then expressed their gratitude for the attention of the Revolutionary Council, foremost by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The Samunwals and colonels who have been promoted to the rank of general are: Samunwal Mohammad Faruq, son of Mohammad Ajan; Colonel Gholam Nabi Naeb Khel, son of Ramada; Colonel Mohammad 'Azim Zormati, son of Sayyed Jan; Samunwal Mohammad 'Ali Ahmadyar, son of 'Abdol Majid; Colonel Jan Mohammad, son of Mohammad Omar; and Colonel Gholam Jaylani, son of Gholam Mohammad.

Karmal Responds to Indian President's Message
LD220622 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 21, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has sent a reply to the greeting message earlier sent by Zail Singh, president of the Republic of India, while overflying the territory of the DRA.

The message expresses confidence that the existing friendly relations and the fruitful cooperation between the DRA and Republic of India would develop in the interest of the two countries and peace and security in the world.

Zail Singh had expressed in his message hope for the further development of the traditional friendship between the peoples of both the countries.

U.S. Embassy Transfer Called 'Shocking News'
LD250828 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 24, BAKHTAR — The Department of the Islamic Affairs of the DRA has issued a declaration concerning the transfer of U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The declaration notes that this is a shocking news not only to Afghan Moslems but to other Moslems of the world as well. The U.S. imperialism continues with such ominous attempts, is trying to give a legitimacy to the Israel aggression and occupation of Jerusalem and thereby undermining Arabic essence of this Holy City.

The Moslem working people, scholars, and all dedicated to the holy religion of Islam in Afghanistan and the Department of the Islamic Affairs of the DRA as their representative strongly condemn this brazen act and conspiracy of the U.S. imperialism and the Reagan Administration.

We call all Moslem working people and institutions of the world to stand against the enemies of Islam.

Government To Erect Watchtowers at Indian Border

BK241750 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The government has decided to set up watchtowers along the Bangladesh-India borders to intensify vigilance in border areas. This has been officially stated in Dhaka today. Initially, 24 (?watchtowers) will be set up. Work on construction of these towers will start soon.

Foreign Ministry Describes Border Incident

BK241741 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that about 30 Indian laborers escorted by 8 members of the Indian Border Security Force [BSF] came near the Border Pillar No 1007 at 1010 this morning and tried to erect pillars along the zero line of the border to put up a barbed wire fence. The men of the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] protested it and requested that the BSF stop the work. The spokesman said that at 1110, when the BDR men were coming back, the BSF, without provocation, began shooting at them with automatic weapons. The BDR had to return the fire in self-defense. Immediately after that, the BSF fired at our [words indistinct]. The BDR returned the fire in self-defense.

Expressing deep regret, the spokesman said that despite repeated protests the BSF [words indistinct] unilateral provocative activities on the zero line of the border as a result of which tension increases (?in the region) and becomes a (?threat) to peace and security. Condemning this, the spokesman again expressed the hope that the Indian authorities will refrain from unilateral activities on the zero line of the border. The spokesman requested that Indian authorities stop the recurrence of these unfortunate incidents and ease tension in the region for the sake of friendly relations between the two countries.

BSS: India Held Responsible for Skirmishes

BK250934 Dhaka BSS in English 0917 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April 25, (BSS) — Bangladesh has accused India of doing provocative acts by erecting barbed-wire fencing along entire border between the neighbours in violation of the 10-year-old ground rules.

Dhaka held India responsible for the day-long skirmishes yesterday between border security forces of the two countries following India's attempts to plant concrete pillars for the fencing at northern border.

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night that Indian actions pose threat to peace and security in the area and repeated the charge that the erection of the barbed wire fence was an unfriendly act. Bangladesh objects to India's plan to erect the fencing along entire 2,188 km on the grounds that these are of defensive nature on 300-yard zero-line of the border.

The security forces of Bangladesh physically opposed the plantation of the pillars that brought the conflict and Dhaka said Indian side opened the fire when they faced the stiff opposition.

In the skirmishes Bangladesh Rifles lost one of its jawans [soldiers] Friday last in Indian firing and another injured.

After a lull for 3 days fresh violence flared up in the area yesterday.

Bangladesh also objected to the erection of watch-tower by India for surveillance over Bangladesh along the border. Over fifty have already been erected by India.

Bangladesh last night also announced that it would also construct similar 40-ft high towers with modern equipments: powerful binocular and telephone facilities for the surveillance.

A government spokesman said initially the country would have 24 such towers and planning for the rest along the remaining border was underway.

Two Protest Notes Handed to Indian Envoy

BK251302 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Dhaka was summoned to the Foreign Ministry again today and a note was handed over to him strongly protesting against unprovoked firing by the Border Security Force on the Bangladesh Rifles personnel and the Bangladesh BOP [as heard] at Sonarhat yesterday.

According to official sources, another strong protest note was also delivered against the violation of Bangladesh airspace by two Indian aircrafts which entered into the Bangladesh territory the same day near the border pillar No. 855 and hovered for some time over Bangladesh territory at Kurigram district.

Diplomatic Ties With Costa Rica Severed

BK240629 Dhaka BSS in English 0619 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April 24 BSS — Bangladesh has severed its diplomatic ties with Costa Rica for moving latter's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in Israel.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the move was in keeping with the decision of Al-Quds Committee taken in Fes in Morocco last week.

Bangladesh does not have diplomatic relations with El Salvador, another country with which the Fes meeting urged ICO members to sever relations for shifting their embassy to Jerusalem.

Spokesman Says Bangladesh To Erect Watchtowers

BK241604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Bangladesh Rifles opened fire on a Border Security Force [BSF] party again today to prevent Indian workers from erecting a fence on the border.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that India profoundly regrets these aggressive actions on the part of Bangladesh and earnestly hopes that Dhaka will stop such provocations.

The spokesman added that after the firing by Bangladesh Rifles on Friday, India showed great restraint by temporarily suspending the works. However, the work of erecting the fence has continued at (Sonahat), a few kilometers away, and also in Dhubri district. This morning, a survey party with a BSF escort of about 20 other ranks was carrying on its work of erecting the fence at pillar 1007 when the Bangladesh Rifles opened fire on them at 1045. The matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government.

The Bangladesh Government has decided to set up watchtowers along the Indo-Bangladesh border. This was officially stated in Dhaka today. An official announcement said, initially, 24 such towers are to be erected on the border.

AFP: Bangladesh Envoy Summoned, Given 2d Protest

BK250809 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 25 (AFP) — The Indian Foreign Ministry today summoned Bangladesh's high commissioner here to lodge its second protest in six days following a clash between the two countries' border guards over India's erection of a frontier fence, official sources said.

Two Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) men, one an officer, were wounded in a skirmish lasting several hours yesterday on the frontier between India's Assam state and Bangladesh's Rangpur District.

Both sides accuse the other of firing first.

The Foreign Ministry today called in Bangladesh's high commisioner here, Air Vice-Marshal A.K. Khandker, to protest what it called the "unprovoked firing" by a Bangladesh Rifles company on BSF troops and Indian workers constructing an anti-illegal immigrant fence.

(However, a Bangladesh Foreign Ministry spokemsan said in Dhaka yesterday that the BSF unit opened fire on the Bangladesh Rifles after they protested against the building of the fence. The rifles fired back in self-defence, he said.)

This was the second clash between the two sides border forces within a week.

AFP: Border Forces Arrest 8 Afghans, 2 Iranians

BK241727 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Ferozepur, India-Pakistan border, April 24 (AFP) — Indian border troops have arrested eight Afghans and two Iranians who attempted to sneak into the Indian State of Punjab from Pakistan, officials said here today.

Amir Chand Sharma, chief administrator of this strategic district, told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE that the Afghans and the Iranians were being interrogated to probe into reports that the Sikh militants in Punjab were getting arms from Pakistan through gun runners. They were arrested last week, when a border patrol spotted them attempting to cross the border at night. But the administration here kept the news a closely guarded secret.

Ferozepur, which has a long 125-kilometre (77.5 mile) border with Pakistan is one of the 12 districts in Punjab, where the Sikh campaign for religious and political concessions have unleashed a reign of terror.

An AFP correspondent touring the district, a part of which was put under curfew following violent incidents yesterday, which led to the death of at least six Sikhs, saw paramilitary troops in full battle dress posted at all strategic points.

It was here last evening that a paramilitary patrol shot dead six Sikhs in self defence, Mr Sharma said. Three of the victims were Nihangs or traditional Sikh warriors, hospital source said.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the Border Security Force manning the border said the intensified patrolling and vigilance following a warning from the Punjab administration that sophisticated arms, including AK 47 rifles were falling into the hands of the Sikh militants. It is extreme'y difficult to say for sure that arms are coming from across the border, but we do not rule it out, said one official.

Materials Dealing With Punjab Situation

Home Minister's Remarks

BK241302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has made it clear that the government will not accept the demands of Khalistan and the nation will not accept it. Mr Sethi was replying to a 3-hour discussion on a statement made by him in the Raja Sabha yesterday on the law and order situation in Punjab. He reiterated the government's stand to find out a negotiated settlement of the Punjab problem. He said that the center had from the beginning tried to solve the problem through negotiations.

Speaking about the extremist activities, Mr Sethi said the government has been receiving reports that the extremists have

contacts with Pakistan. The matter is, however, delicate and involves international relations.

Sethi on Readiness To Talk

BK241622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has reiterated the government's stand to find out a negotiated settlement to the Punjab tangle. He said from the very beginning, the center has tried to solve the problem through negotiations. Mr Sethi was replying to a discussion on a statement on the Punjab situation he made in the house yesterday.

The minister said the government is prepared for a bipartite or tripartite talks to clear any existing doubts on the religious and other issues. Mr Sethi also made it clear that the government will not hesitate to refer the river waters dispute to a tribunal provided there is an overall agreement to the Punjab issue.

Mr Sethi said several steps have been taken to check extremist activities; intelligence has been strengthened. The minister said though the law does not prohibit police entry into the Golden Temple, the government is not doing it, keeping in view the feelings of the Sikhs.

Earlier seeking clarifications, members from different parties demanded a fresh dialogue with the Akali Dal. Some members appealed to the Akali leadership to isolate the extremists. Some opposition members criticized the government for not handling the situation properly.

Curfews, Arrests

BK241608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The day curfew in Bagha Purana in Faridkot district has been lifted from today. In Moga, the curfew is continuing and no relaxation was given today in view of the tension in a part of the city. A former sarpanch [village head] of village (Biroki) near Moga was seriously injured when some extremists fired at him last evening. In Patiala, the night curfew is continuing as a precautionary measure. In Ferozepur, nine miscreants were arrested and one gun, one pistol, and a number of sharp-edged weapons were recovered from them.

Further Incidents, Curfews

BK250320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, an attempt to sabotage the railway track was made near Ferozepur Cantonment railway station. The gangmen found the track slightly damaged due to a bomb blast. An unexploded bomb was also found at the spot. According to an official spokesman, the railway traffic was not affected on the section.

In another incident, some armed terrorists ambushed a police constable at (Kairon) village in Amritsar district yesterday and deprived him of the rifle at gunpoint.

The 24-hour curfew in Ferozepur and Moga has been further extended. The night curfew in Chandigarh, Patiala, and Bagha Purana is continuing as a precautionary measure.

Gandhi Asks Air Force To Upgrade Weapons Systems

BK241627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The prime minister has asked Air Force commanders to continually upgrade their weapons systems. Addressing their biennial conference in New Delhi today, Mrs Gandhi said India cannot rely on others for defense. India's own research and development must meet the challenges and keep pace with high technology and sophistication in arms. Mrs Gandhi expressed grave concern over the increased threat to India's security and attempts being made to weaken the country's unity and stability. She said the Indian Ocean has become an arena of conflict. Disarmament talks have got bogged down resulting in increased confrontation between the two blocks. India, being a nonaligned nation, faces great pressures.

In a reference to the situation in Punjab, the prime minister said the main task before the country is to see that communalism does not gain a foothold.

The prime minister congratulated the Indian Air Force on the success of the joint Indian-Soviet space mission, saying that the space flight of the Indian cosmonaut was a proud moment in India's history.

Mrs Gandhi appreciated the measures taken by the IAF [Indian Air Force] to improve flight safety. She presented Squadron of the Year trophies to six fighter and transport squadrons for their best flight safety record last year.

Prime Minister Comments on Ties With Japan

OW231345 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1220 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Exclusive interview with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by NHK New Delhi correspondent Watanabe — recorded; date, place not given; interview conducted in English with Japanese subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Watanabe] The official visit of the Japanese prime minister to India is taking place after a long gap of 23 years. Though this visit is a delayed one, how do you view this?

[Gandhi] Well, we welcome it. We welcome your prime minister coming. Especially since it is such a long gap, that's all the more reason why he should come. We have always believed in closer cooperation and we have had sympathies with the Japanese people from long ago. And I think the countries of Aisa should have far greater contacts and cooperation.

[Watanabe] Your government has been trying to liberalize the process of Indo-Japan joint ventures in the industrial fields. Do you intend to continue this process of so-called liberalization?

[Gandhi] As I said, that from the beginning the private sector has played a very large role and, as our economy becomes stronger, we feel freer to liberalize. Now another problem has arisen and that is with our private sector. Because they were given so much protection earlier on, now they do not want liberalization, because they feel this will bring in competition. But we feel that it is necessary because, otherwise, they were not doing what is necessary in research and development and modernizing the factories and so on. We can't possibly produce everything we want to produce, that our people need. And we don't have the latest knowhow. So there is a great need for cooperation between the developed countries and countries like ours. And we are anxious that we should have further cooperation with Japan.

[Watanabe] What kind of technical cooperation the people of India expect from Japan and to what extent?

[Gandhi] Well, I can't sort of draw a line to what extent, but I think that the scope is very great. Up to now, I think about $1.8 billion we are getting from Japan and, but only 3 percent of your exports out of all the world. And only one-twelfth of our collaboration with all the industrialized world is with Japan. So, I think that there is great room to increase this and in different fields, and especially where Japan has greater expertise than other countries.

[Watanabe] India is now the leader of the Nonaligned Movement. At the same time, you are trying to improve Indo-U.S. relations. Does it mean that you are neutralizing your relations between the United States and the Soviet Union?

[Gandhi] Well, this is a question that one cannot answer very directly. We think that being nonaligned means seeking friendship with all countries. That's the whole point of nonalignment, that we do not depend on any one bloc; we remain free to make our own assessments of world situations and come to our own judgment and take action in the light of international peace, as well as national interest, of course. So, there is no question of balancing the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

MP's Say Situation Around India 'Unfavorable'

BK250449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Several members of parliament have expressed the fear that outside powers may make attempts to worsen India's relations with its neighbors. Speaking at a meeting of parliament's Consultative Committee for the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi yesterday, they said the situation around India is unfavorable. They suggested that South Asia should be insulated from the influence of outside powers.

The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, explained that India has adopted a two-fold strategy. A beginning has been made with regional cooperation program, and some useful work has been done.

Replying to a question about Sri Lanka, Mr Rao reaffirmed that India's good offices will continue to be available to Colombo for a political solution of the ethnic issue.

Earth Observation Satellite Mission Terminated

BK241619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The Bhaskara-II mission has been terminated after 29 months. The country's second experimental earth observation satellite lasted 4 months more than its expected life. The successful completion of Bhaskara-II mission marks the end of the experimental phase for space-based remote sensing program. The data from Bhaskara-I and Bhaskara-II has been useful in locating earth resources, oceanography, and meteorology.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Piranshah 25 April

LD251052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Following the completion of the second term of the Majlis elections in Kurdish inhabited areas and the warm welcome given by our Kurdish compatriots — despite extensive propaganda by counterrevolution in this stage of the elections — at 0845 this morning, 3 invading aircraft of the Zionist enemy bombed the hero-nurturing city of Piranshah, martyring 7 and injuring 30 inhabitants.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,706

LD211749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,706 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] By maintaining their fighting might and their spirit of attack, Islam's mighty combatants during the past 24 hours continued to defend their positions throughout the fronts of the imposed war, particularly in the Majnun Islands where the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenary criminals have done their utmost to carry out their desperate efforts and have not refrained from any act of trickery and inhumanity. On every front and sector, by smashing enemy forward positions and artillery emplacements, our forces have repulsed and neutralized enemy movements and activities.

In the Piranshah and Hajj 'Umran operational sectors, Islam's combatants controlled the enemy's relocation movements and silenced their fire. The observed losses and casualties suffered by the Saddamists in the Hajj 'Umran sector was 30 servicemen killed and several tanks put out of action.

In the Marivan sector, our patrol forces were active and the ambush squads of the Islamic combatants dealt blows to the enemy.

On the western fronts, the most intense clashes and exchanges of fire were in the Sumar and Mehran sectors where our combatants, by opening retaliatory fire, inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

On the southern fronts, our forces, controlling the enemy's supply and operational roads, opened fire on enemy units which were being replaced and disrupted or curbed their activities. In the Majnun Island and Kushk sectors where the intensity of exchanges of fire was greater than on other southern fronts, our ground forces reconnoitered several enemy patrol boats and by opening fire forced them to flee from the scene after suffering losses.

During exchanges of fire on the Arvand Rud front, our Gendarmerie combatants opened fire on the Al-Faw-Basra supply axis and on Iraqi positions; enemy supply and engineering activities were halted. Our forces totally destroyed three enemy jeeps and an observation tower, set fire to more than 11 trenches and weapons emplacements of the Saddamist mercenaries, and killed a number of their servicemen.

During the past 24 hours, the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries continued to fire on populated parts of the city of Abadan. Several houses and shops were destroyed and one of our dear compatriots was wounded.

Velayati Receives Syrian Oil Minister

LD241930 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA — Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi al-Durubi met and held talks with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr Velayati, here today. Minutes of their talks were not immediately available but it is said that the two officials reviewed and exchanged views on the situation in the region and on "plots by imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East."

The Iranian foreign minister and the visiting Syrian oil minister also jointly stressed on bilateral relations in every sphere of activity between Iran and Syria with respect to their common enemies.

The Syrian minister arrived for a visit to Tehran Monday night.

SANA Account

JN241504 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, 24 Apr (SANA) — Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati today received Syrian Minister of Oil and Mineral Wealth Ghazi al-Durubi who is currently visiting Iran to renew the oil agreement between Iran and Syria for another year.

During the meeting, which was conducted in a friendly atmosphere, relations between the two friendly countries were reviewed,particularly concerning oil.

Deputy Minister Leaves for Geneva Conference

LD241908 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam left Tehran today to participate in the Disarmament Conference being held in Geneva. He said the Islamic Republic wanted to express the fact that while it was the real victim of chemical weapons, the super powers were trying to exploit the situation in their own favour.

He said Iran also wanted to make a point that even a total ban on the production and use of chemical weapons could not stop countries such as Iraq from using chemical weapons.

"When there is no international regulation for punishing aggressors and violators of important international laws, what could ever stop these laws from being violated?" he said.

Sheykh ol-Eslam added that the Disarmament Conference had become an arena for superficial war of words between the two super powers. On the other hand, he said, the "Group of 21" non-aligned countries had been able to achieve only a few advantages for the conference.

"Unfortunately multi-lateral negotiations during all these years have not brought clear and final results for the conference. The reason is clear. The super powers play games at the conference and they waste time with feigned wars and baseless excuses..." he added.

Majlis Deputy Condemns Soviet Shipments to Iraq
LD221444 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA — The first speaker of the open session of the Majlis here today was the deputy from Behshahr, Caspean area, Ali Asghar Rahmani Khalili, who condemned the Soviet shipment of arms to the Iraqi regime. The Soviet Union should realise that the Iranian nation would not forget the Soviet assistance to the Iraqi regime, especially that the Soviet Union claims to be friendly with Iran, he added.

He also said that the fact that Britain has been providing the Iraqi Ba'thist regime with chemical weapons proved that the world oppressors did not believe in human rights and that the two superpowers have been collaborating with one another against the interest of the oppressed nations.

Commenting on the recently held Majlis elections, he said that it was a further proof to the stability and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The deputy from Qorveh, Kordestan Province, Nosratollah Hatefi, also lauded the massive turn out in the Majlis elections. The overwhelming public participation, he added, extinguished all hopes of the satans of West and East and their agents. The high turn out in the elections in Kordestan Province especially put the foreign elements to disgrace, he added.

The deputy from Kuhdasht and Chegini, Lorestan Province, Mohammad Reza Abbasi, also discussed the issue of elections for the 270-seat Majlis. The elections were held in utmost calm and under supervision of law, which showed the strength and status of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world.

The session ended at noon, and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday morning.

Ayatollah Khomeyni Receives Combatants 24 April
LD241246 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today received a group of Islamic combatants, at Jamaran Mosque here this morning.

The group was accompanied by the head of the Basij (mobilisation forces) of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Hojjat ol-Elsam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Guards Officials
LD250838 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, Airl 25, IRNA — Officials of the imam's representative bureaus in Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) met with Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday.

During the meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani outlined social situation of people and religious figures in the former regime and said that the changes in the society after culmination of the revolution was like a dream. He said that a divine power made possible the transformations in our society and gave us the opportunity to examine our competency.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in another part of his talks referring to the formation of IRGC said that certain calculations proved the necessity of a new armed forces comprised of faithful and sacrificing people. Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised religious figures as leading role in IRGC adding that so far 700 of these religious men were martyred in war fronts against Saddam's forces.

Radio Iran on Antiwar Elements Within Armed Forces
GF211752 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Reliable reports from Iran said that the efforts of the Islamic regime during the last few days to win the cooperation of the army have been fruitless. Opposition to the policies of the Supreme Defense Council and the Guards Corps is continuing at different levels within the army.

The same reports added that the authorities commanding the army believe that when the new invasion is launched, the armed religious elements and the commanders of the guards will be compelled to start the operations alone.

Reliable military sources said that most of the commissioned and noncommissioned officers and some of the commanders of the army have openly denounced the warmongering policies of the regime and they are not prepared to join in the propaganda of the regime against the antiwar elements.

Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Guards Corps, some days ago in a radio interview, attacked the antiwar elements in the army. Reza'i said that the antiwar elements oopose the seizure of Iraqi territory and the advance toward Karbala, Lebanon, and Israel. He said this is what is meant when national army forces say that they oppose any role involving plots and adventurism within the army.

Reliable military sources said that lately secret pamphlets and statements have been circulated in the army. These documents explain national values and the role of the army in safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country and in protecting the interests of the Iranian nation.

There have been clashes in the field between warmongering factions and antiwar elements at military and administrative

levels. This shows the failure of the mullahs to attract army personnel.

Observers believe that the religious extremists in spite of all the devices which they have utilized to continue the war are being forced to retreat from their stance of war. [passage indistinct]

Self-Sufficiency Vis-a-Vis War Equipment Lauded

GF221424 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 19 Apr 84

[From "Social and Economic Development in Islamic Republic of Iran" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: At the time of the treacherous Pahlavi regime, the Iranian army was dependent on the Western bloc — particularly on the archsatan America. Known as the most powerful army in the Middle East, the Iranian Armed Forces had been a tool in the hands of the imperialist forces, serving to achieve their disgusting aspirations in the region.

Archsatan America and its Western allies only trained the Iranian army in using the arms they supplied to the Pahlavi regime at the expense of the wealth of the Islamic community. It was as if they had embargoed every kind of information to the Iranian army regarding the manufacture and even the repair of the arms in question. Whenever any of the said arms was damaged, it had to be repaired in the country where it had been manufactured, or foreign experts would be called in to repair the damaged arms so that they could be used again. In that regard, millions of dollars were spent on bringing in foreign experts.

As in the other sectors of the community, significant changes and developments took place in the Armed Forces following the success of the Islamic Revolution. The countrywide campaign for self-sufficiency achieved peak levels within the army. After the commencement of the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran through the Zionist Ba'thist regime, army personnel embarked upon important ventures aimed at succeeding in manufacturing and repairing the required means of warfare without having to seek help from foreign experts.

No foreign army has achieved the success the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have had in manufacturing and repairing the means of warfare during the nearly 4 years since the attack of the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thist forces on the Islamic Republic of Iran with unlimited support from Eastern and Western imperialist forces and aimed at defeating the Islamic Revolution. As a result of 11,000 hours of work, experts of the Iranian Air Force have succeeded in repairing the bullet-riddled wings of F-4 planes and preparing them for combat. By repairing the Phoenix missile-launching systems of the F-14 warplanes, the Air Force experts have amazed the whole world.

The air personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic army have repaired helicopters such as the Cobra and Chinook by working around the clock. Chinook helicopters have been given the capability of night flights. This initiative, which has been achieved through the usage of sensitive and precision technology, yielded its fruits during the Khaybar operations of the Islamic Armed Forces. Major victories have been scored by the Islamic fighters.

The success of the self-sufficiency move has also been observed in the naval forces. The latter has become the best equipped unit of the Islamic army.

So much has the success of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran been in producing [uretmek] and repairing war planes in accordance with the drive for self-sufficiency that our time is not enough to explain their achievements. But let us suffice by saying that the experts of our Ground Forces have amazed the enemies of Islam by repairing the laser system of the Soviet T-72 tanks they have captured from the Zionist Iraqi Ba'thists.

The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have made significant strides in the direction of manufacturing means of warfare. However, we can tell only this much and note that we cannot engage in further disclosures due to the continuing war.

Khamene'i: Revolution Seeks Revival of Muslim Dignity

LD222019 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA — "Our revolution had and has no other aim but to return dignity among Muslims once again and to put the enemies and oppressors of all Muslims in their place," President Ali Khamene'i said today.

The president, speaking to a large group of martyrs' families, said the crime of the Iraqi regime is not just its aggression against a nation but its attempt to destroy a revolution for the revival of Islam.

"Our revolution took place with these great dimensions and thus the Iraqi regime imposed this war seeking to overthrow the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution."

He said, "Our resistance and the exertion of severe pressures on the enemy preserved the revolution and the dignity of the Islamic nation and became a good lesson in history for the nations of the future."

In praise of martyrs, President Khamene'i said the Iranian nation and the Islamic Revolution were indebted to the martyrs and "that which is seen as the achievement of our revolution is in fact the achievement of the blood of martyrs."

Prosecutor General Describes Meeting With Khomeyni

LD241431 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Yusef Sane'i, state prosecutor general, accompanied by the under secretary for information, this morning was received by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He briefed the imam on the operations of the Islamic Revolution courts and offices of prosecutors. At the end of this meeting, the state prosecutor general told our correspondent that one of the points brought to the attention of

the imam was that the Islamic Revolution courts and offices of prosecutors, despite their shortage of manpower, have worked very hard and have implemented the imam's message with care.

He added: Offices of prosecutors and ordinary courts, in view of instruction No 288 [word indistinct] of the civil procedure, have not violated the law. Even if there is negligence,it can be eliminated by guidance and understanding. Prosecutors oversee the implementation of laws everywhere.

The state prosecutor also added that with regard to problems in the prisons the imam emphasized that efforts should be made to free prisoners who repent and accept guidance as soon as possible.

Prosecutor General Tours Semnan, Zanjan Provinces
LD221432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Supreme Judicial Council held a session this morning chaired by State Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili. At the conclusion of today's session, State Prosecutor General Sane'i made the following remarks on the purpose and outcome of his trip to Semnan and Zanjan Provinces:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The main purpose of my trip to both provinces was to take part at the memorial service to mark the 40th day after martyrdom of several warriors who were martyred in the course of the Khaybar offensive. In Semnan Province, among the issues discussed, I stressed the issue of land — the small farmers and large landowners. It is possible that some of the large landowners might think of ways to harm the farmers. Therefore, during my speech, I instructed them on the legal and shari'a solutions.

In Zanjan Province, we held talks with judges of the court of justice and of the revolutionary and public courts from the city of Zanjan and nearby towns and districts. The situation of all the courts were quite satisfactory. The judges raised some legal questions, which were answered. For instance, there was a question on leniency, and they were wondering whether some sentences could be reduced and whether flogging could be replaced by fines in some cases? They asked whether it would be possible to reduce prison terms below the minimum determined by the law? I discussed these points and offered my guidance. I told them: Yes, it is possible in some cases, and they were pleased, as they were already doing the same. Nevertheless, our views agreed with their deeds. We further recommended that the judges add the names of those individuals who express regret in prisons to the pardon lists, because we have many days for amnesty and pardon. For instance, the 15th of Khordad [anniversary of the 5 June 1963 uprising] is one of the days when some individuals might be granted pardon. There are similar occasions coinciding with the great feasts. There were no real problems in the judicial system: the revolution courts were short of space, and this was a problem. We discussed this with them and it was agreed to make contacts and get estimates. There was a similar problem of space in the court of Abhar and it was agreed to discuss it with the deputy of the court. We will also assist them within our limits and potentials. Thanks be to God, everything else was satisfactory and there were no big problems which might create trouble for the Supreme Judicial Council.

The interesting point was the mass participation of the people at the memorial ceremony. Their great mosque was full of people and the people had enthusiastically taken part.

President Stresses Islamic Treatment of Prisoners
LD221916 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran April 22 IRNA — Members of the commission to investigate the situation of prisoners met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here today.

In this meeting President Khamene'i was informed of the 9-month function of the commission as well as the number of prisoners pardoned after investigations. A report on the problems rising from shortage of judicial personnel in the prisons was also submitted to the president.

President Khamene'i thanked the services rendered and fruitful efforts made by the imam-appointed members of the commission and stressed on completion of the judicial personnel and on speedy investigation of the prisoners' issues. He said in running the prisons of the country, Islamic and constructive behavior must be observed.

Baluch Tribesmen Clash With Police in Zahedan
GF241801 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 19 Apr 84 p1

[From *HAIDAR* news service]

[Text] Quetta, 18 April — Reports received from across the border state that 115 people were killed and 32 injured in a clash between the Baluch tribesmen and the Iranian police. It has been said that there was a great furor over the results of the voting for one of the Majlis seats.

The Baluch tribesmen's accusation was that in the election results, a Persian-speaking person had been announced as elected. As a result of this, shots were exchanged between the police and the tribesmen and some troops arrived in Zahedan from Tehran.

Executions Reported in Mashhad, Zahedan, Birjand
GF241925 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The Khomeyni regime executed eight Iranian freedom-fighters in Mashhad, Zahedan, and Birjand.

The Free Voice of Iran correspondent reported that some time ago the Khomeyni regime issued instructions not to carry news of executions on the occupied radio and television. But on most occasions, newspapers print reports of executions of freedom-fighters in prisons. On the basis of the same report which our correspondent sent to us from *KEYHAN* , three people in Mashhad, three in Zahedan, and two in Birjand were handed

over to the execution squads. *KEYHAN* did not mentioned the dates of these executions.

Abu Musa Island Linked to Telephone Network

GF221822 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] The island of Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf yesterday was linked to the general telephone network. In a telephone call on the occasion of the opening of the telephone center of the island of Abu Musa, Prime Minister Brother Mir-Hoseyn Musavi hailed the efforts exerted by the officials and people of the island. He thanked them for their work in this regard. Important steps have been taken since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in the fields of construction and economic prosperity on this island which is distinguished by its special strategic location. The island of Abu Musa will be an important fishing center in the Persian Gulf in the near future after it has been equipped with refrigeration facilities.

Radio Iran on 'New Facilities'

GF231514 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpt] It was revealed in Tehran that the Islamic regime has constructed new facilities in the three islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. According to our reports, a communications station has been set up in Abu Musa which also covers the other islands. The radio of the regime called these islands, which were officially annexed by Iran in 1971 by the late shah, a very important and strategically significant region.

Political experts believe that the Islamic Republic seems to have established the headquarters to plot moves against the free passage of ships in the Strait of Hormuz on Abu Musa Island. However, it is unlikely that the Islamic Republic is capable of carrying out such a plan. According to informed experts, the narrowest part of the Hormuz waterway is 40 km wide and requires the sinking of at least 60 giant oil tankers end to end in order to close it. This is beyond the military capability of the Islamic Republic.

Velayati Receives Message From Ash-Shariqah Ruler

LD242017 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA — A special envoy of the ruler of Ash-Shariqah, U.A.E., Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, met this morning with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The envoy presented Dr. Velayati a written message from Shaykh al-Qasimi, stressing on further expansion of friendly ties.

Regional developments were also discussed during the meeting.